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Indianapolis Department of Public Safety

Stay Informed of Hazards and Severe Weather

With spring right around the corner Emergency Management wants every citizen to be prepared for all the weather related hazards that can occur. The old phrase attributed to Mark Twain, "If you don't like the weather here, just wait a minute and it will change," seems to be even truer during the spring months. Severe weather can pop up with little notice; however there are several things you can do to keep yourself and loved informed and alert of impending hazards.

One way to stay apprised of severe with is by purchasing a weather radio. A weather radio is a relatively inexpensive item that can give you the precious minutes needed to get to the safest area of your home. In the event of immanent severe weather the radio would broadcast a message informing you of the nature of the danger.

In the event that you are outside and away from televised or radio warnings, Emergency Management will sound the Outdoor Warning Sirens. Over the past few years Emergency Management has revised and updated this alerting system and now the sirens can be sounded in specific geographical locations in the county. This is in contrast to the old system which required the sirens to be sounded throughout the entire county. By being able to sound the sirens in specific quadrants of the county Emergency Management will avoid unnecessarily alerting portions of the county not affected by the approaching hazard.

Emergency Management understands that in today's world people are much more mobile and can stay connected with the use of mobile devices such as Blackberries, PDA's, and iPhones. To assist people who are often on the go Emergency Management has created both a Facebook and Twitter account. By either "friending" us on Facebook or "following" Emergency Management on Twitter, citizens can have alerts of impending hazards to their mobile devices. No matter where a citizen is they can stay informed of hazards in the area.

In addition the all of these means of staying informed, Emergency Management will be rolling out a Mass Notification System, Codespear, in the coming months. This free feature will allow citizens to register their cell phones, pagers, PDA's or other devices to receive emergency notifications, providing them with timely, official, and accurate information about hazards in their area.

For more information on how to keep your family prepared for severe weather and potential disasters contact the staff of Emergency Management at 327-3900 or visit us online at www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPS/EMA/Page/home.aspx or our social media sites: Facebook: Marion County Emergency Management Agency; Twitter: IndianapolisEMA